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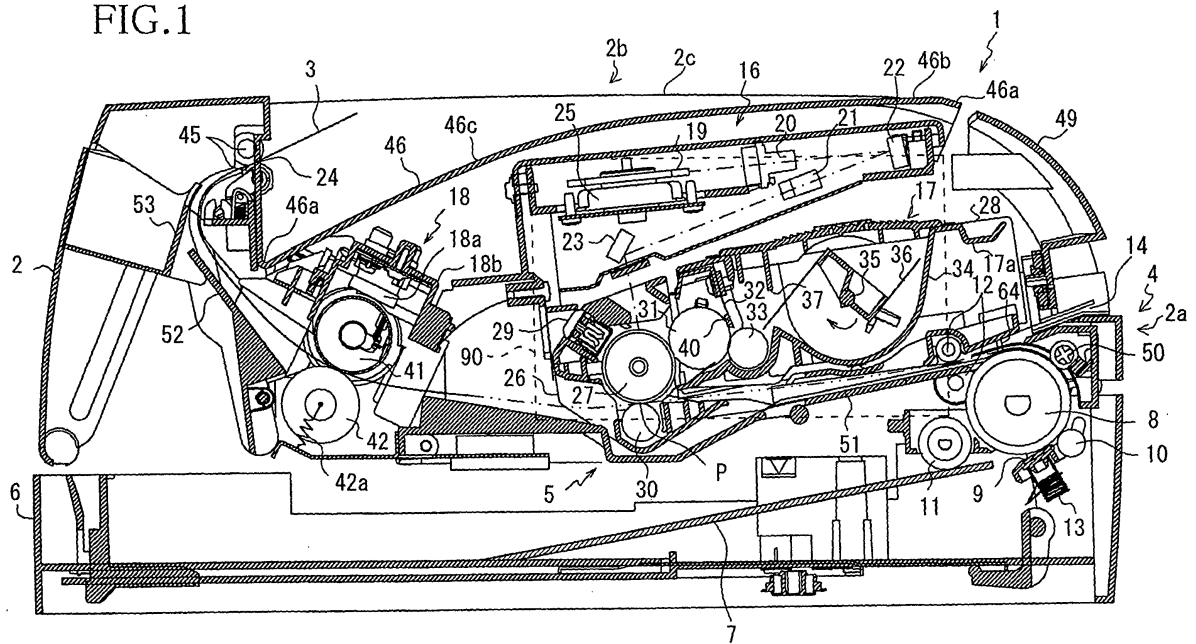
(54) **Image forming apparatus**

(57) An image forming apparatus includes a main casing; a photosensitive member; a process cartridge that can be installed or removed with respect to the main casing along a removal path; a scanner unit located above the process cartridge when the process cartridge is installed in the main casing; a sheet accommodating portion located at a bottom portion of the main casing; a pick-up roller located above the sheet accommodating portion; and a feed path along which a sheet can be conveyed from the sheet accommodating portion to a discharge port and a sheet stacking portion. At least a part of the feed path is substantially parallel to the removal path and located between the sheet accommodating por-

tion and the process cartridge when the process cartridge is installed in the main casing; the scanner unit includes a frame including a first portion having a first height and a second portion having a second height that is less than the first height, the second portion being located closer to the pick-up roller than the first portion; and an image forming position where an image is transferred from the photosensitive member to the sheet is located along the feed path at a position lower than an upper surface of the pick-up roller in a direction perpendicular to the removal path.

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FIG.1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 2 March 2012	Examiner Van Ouytsel, Krist'l
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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